

Chignal Parish Council

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Clerk: Will Adshead-Grant

Chair: Lynn Ballard

Website: e-voice.org.uk/Chignal-Parish

Vice Chair: Linda Nelson

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly meeting of Chignal Parish Council held on Monday 14th November 2022.

Governance

2022/490 Chairman's Welcome

Some new members of the public in attendance from Little Hollows. There was a wonderful send off for the local postman who retired and many of the residents came together in the village hall.

Chair: Ballard

Cllrs: Lewis, Elwick, Nelson and Stainton

2022/491 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Towns

2022/492 Register of Declarations of Interests and any requests for dispensation

No declarations were made.

2022/493 Public Open Session for any matters that need to be drawn to the Parish Council's attention.

The item does not need to be on the current agenda.

Hollow Lane gate – Concern raised over speeding drivers that are driving through the gate that has been removed. The gate is the responsibility of Persimmon. The general feeling is to move to a full permanent block of the lane rather than the current hybrid system.

Carpet bowls club – request for the training on the input of the information on the new website.

Flooding at Pieces cottage – Essex Highways update awaited to Cllr Steel.

2022/494 County and City Councillors' Reports

- i. Essex County Councillor Report – Cllr Mike Steel

Hollow Lane gate

The lock has been vandalised several times and has been replaced around six times. Now the gate has been cut off its hinges.

Background

As part of planning permission granted by Chelmsford City Council to develop land north of Copperfield Road, under planning reference 14/01672/OUT & 17/00189/RM, a number of highway improvements were been identified under the S106 Agreement appended to the planning permission including: Prohibition of motor vehicles (closure) on Hollow Lane, Broomfield/Chignal which was consulted on the 2nd January 2020 under Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) TRAF/7178 Looking at the drawing associated with the Planning Application, it says - "The ECC proposed gate to restrict access for emergency vehicles agricultural vehicles and cycles only". i.e., it is a condition that the closure can be overcome by such vehicles and an FB lock is fitted, whereby emergency vehicles have a key. Also, there are signs showing that motorised vehicles are prohibited.

Currently, the area still belongs to Persimmons. I assume that the gate must be in place at the point at which the road is adopted by ECC Highways, which will be when the site is completed, and after 2025. Until that time, Persimmons are responsible for any assets. After adoption, they become the responsibility of ECC Highways. Persimmons have kindly responded to requests from myself, ECC Highways and Chignal PC, and put in the gate.

The Gate

The FB lock has been cut several times and replaced with someone's own lock. Persimmons have reinstated the FB padlock several times. Now the gate has been totally removed.

Persimmons installed a camera, and we have footage of the person who removed the gate. The police have been informed and are adding extra patrols.

The prohibition signs remain in place, so anyone using the road, unless for access, could be prosecuted. Originally the gate fitted was below the regulation 3m width and has recently been replaced by Persimmons.

Option 1: Keep replacing the lock/gate.

The gate still belongs to Persimmons, so is their responsibility to maintain. The road will not be adopted until after 2025, so Persimmons may not be obliged to keep repairing the gate until ready for handover. Advancing Highways adoption of the road is unlikely to be met with enthusiasm by ECC whilst this problem exists. Install a better camera system - an expensive option

Option 2 Permanent Closure.

I think this would need both an amendment to the Planning Consent and a new TRO. Persimmons would need to submit such an application and Highways, the TRO.

Both would be subject to public consultation. When the original application was considered, the public did not include the current residents of Little Hollows! Although it should be noted that if such an application failed, it would revert to the gate option – i.e., opposing the application would not remove the closure.

There is also the added complication that Hollow Lane features on emergency services sat navs, so they could oppose this option. Getting sat navs changed is a long process. I have already initiated the questions.

Option 3 Remove closure altogether.

It would be a pity to give in to unlawful coercion!

As with Option 2, removing the restriction would require a Planning amendment and TRO, both being subject to public consultation – a different set of public this time.

It would also have the added expense of all the signage being removed.

Essex County Council consultation on 2023/24 Budget

Essex County Council has launched a consultation inviting all county residents and businesses how to spend its 2023/24 budget. The consultation is now open, closing on Monday 28 November. You can take part in the consultation here: <https://survey.euro.confirmit.com/wix/7/p350931054797.aspx?ebrm=1&l=9>

Next year the County Council plans to spend over £2bn, more than half of which will be spent on adult and children's social care alone. This includes funding for essential services such as social care, investment in the county's roads, infrastructure, libraries, school buildings and future growth. While £2bn is a significant amount, like other local authorities across the country, the Council will need to make difficult decisions about where to invest and where to make savings. You can help shape how we respond to the current uncertainty and to the pressures we face. It is Everyone's Essex; we are very keen to hear from you. Against this difficult fiscal backdrop, Essex County Council is in the process of setting its own budget and is inviting businesses and residents to give their feedback on how public money should be spent in the coming financial year. This is due to overlapping factors, including the significant impacts of inflation at a 40-year high, an unprecedented increase in the cost of living, the lasting effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and increasing numbers of Essex residents needing different council services. How much funding ECC will receive from the Government and what ministers might decide regarding limits on council tax increases is also unclear. The financial outlook for Essex is uncertain and forecasting for coming and future years, continues to be extremely challenging. The County Council has a track record of strong financial management, having achieved £258m in savings over the past five years. Last year the County Council announced 'Everyone's Essex' an ongoing plan for levelling up the county. It contains twenty commitments to help Essex recover from the pandemic and to face the challenges of the future. ECC needs to mitigate these pressures now, but also continue to plan for the future. We want Essex to be the best local authority in the country – as judged by the residents, the businesses, and the communities we support and serve. To achieve this, we need to be honest and open.

We need the honesty to admit that we do not have all the answers when it comes to tackling complex problems. And we need to be open to new ideas and approaches – ensuring the services we provide and the investments we make are developed with our communities." The growing UK financial crisis is impacting every household and business budget and Essex County Council is no exception. The cost of materials and services in highways and social care alone have soared.

Essex Highways Survey

You should have received an invitation to fill in the survey on ECC Highway's services.

Last September we invited all Parish & Town Councils, and individual District, City and Borough Councillors and County Members within Essex County Council's area, plus a range of other private and public organisations, to offer their view on the priorities and satisfaction levels associated with the specific services provided by Essex Highways. The responses you provide feed into our planning cycle and help us to consider how we can best use our limited resources to meet current and future demands.

Thank you to all those who responded, your views are extremely important to us. We would now like to invite you or your organisation to complete this years' survey. It is open from Tuesday 11th October 2022 to Wednesday 4th January 2023. To access the survey please click on the following link [Essex Highways User Survey](#) .The deadline for this survey to be returned is Wednesday 4th January 2023.If you have any further questions about the survey process or the questionnaire itself then please contact us via email to: EssexHighways.UserSurveys@essexhighways.org

East Anglia GREEN – from Norwich to Tilbury - UPDATE

On 4th Nov 2022, our North/West Parish Group (2 Cllrs from each of my 10 Parish Councils + 2 from Ingatestone and Margaretting) met with Rosie Pearson, spokesperson for action group Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons. Their basic message is that there is a cheaper offshore option. However, NG have unfavourably compared on-shore with their proposed off-shore, whereas NG themselves had an earlier cheaper off-shore proposal (2020 NATIONAL GRID ESO) more akin. Rosie is meeting with Dept for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on Monday 7th Nov 22. Kemi Badenoch, MP for Saffron Walden (inc. Broomfield and Writtle) to gain her support to the offshore alternative to likewise lobby the Dept for Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Village Gateways - LHP

In 2022/23 the Chelmsford Local Highway Panel has funded the design of Village Gateways on Breeds Road/Woodhall Hill, Chignal Smealey under LCHE212027. These have been shared with Chignal PC for their feedback. Both Chignal PC and I have expressed disappointment that the gate is just one side and does not look like a gate. This is because of land ownership. I will investigate further. As it stands, it does seem worth proceeding based on the current designs.

Ride London.

The organisation is working extremely hard this year to enable fund raising efforts. Saint Nicholas Church is working on a fund-raising scheme on the route.

ii. Chelmsford City Councillor Report - Cllr Nicolette Chambers

The CCC is running a deficit and has lost a lot of staff due to the high levels of vacancies. Extra planning meeting in January 2023. New Mayor (was the deputy major) due to the death of the previous mayor. Duty under the Housing Act to provide temporary housing. Refurbishing Aquila House. Ten flats have been made available for use. Elections May 2023. The Civic Theatre has closed for refurbishment and should reopen in January. Warren Farm: the farmer has sown crops due to the delays caused by unresolved matters in the planning application. Hammonds Farm is still under consideration.

2022/495 Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on 10th October 2022

Resolution: The minutes were confirmed.

2022/496 Note the Orchard sub-Committee minutes of 2nd November 2022

Resolution: The minutes were noted.

Planning

2022/497 Planning Decisions:

22/01188/FUL	Stevens Lodge Mashbury Road Chignal St James Chelmsford Essex CM1 4TX	Application Permitted
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2022/498 Update on the National Grid East Anglia Green Consultation: update from NW/SW parishes Meeting and EN020027 - East Anglia GREEN - EIA Scoping Notification and Consultation

There is a lot of work in the background to review the huge volume of documents created. The Parish Council is awaiting an update from Chelmsford City Council and the anti-pylon pressure group.

2022/499 Report of Orchard Land encroachment

Resolution: The precept demand was agreed at £8,100.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

2022/504 Representatives' Reports: to discuss and debate any items.

- A) Little Hollows / Copperfield Place Liaison - Cllr Elwick
- Landscaping works have been undertaken and the vast majority has been completed.
 - The white finger post at the junction of Chignal Road/Hollow Lane is still outstanding.
 - Chelmsford City Parks department to undertake bulb planting amongst the trees that the Council planted opposite Chopyns Barn and alongside Chignal Road.
- B) Playing Field - Cllr Elwick and Cllr Towns
- Carpark needs some weed control. Some Oak posts need repair and the Gazebo to be checked.
 - Goal post pegs need to be replaced.
- C) Village Hall Liaison - Cllr Towns
- Recently hosted our MP for a meeting.
 - 3rd Dec Christmas Coffee and mince pie event.
 - Date in early June for the Village Fete
- D) Community Engagement - Cllr Nelson and Cllr Stainton
- Website – Data being collated and 3 or 4 options for training to be issued.
 - Potential for December admin training and input.
 - Potential website launch in January.
 - Chignal News – last printed edition between January and February to coincide with launch of the website.
- E) Community Safety – Cllr Lewis
- Chignal Community Resilience Plan – a draft plan was reviewed with a presentation from Chelmsford City Council resilience officer at the January meeting.
- F) Highways (include Hedges) - Cllr Towns, Cllr Ballard, and Cllr Elwick
- Road – drains/flooding – updated response to be sought from Essex Highways
 - Village Gateway signs – Send comments on to Jon Simmons.
 - Anti-litter Road signs – feedback from Braintree DC
 - Roadside hedge cutting – Highways and Landowner cutting has taken place.
- G) Footpaths/Bridleways – Cllr Nelson and Cllr Towns
- Changes made to the definitive maps need to be marked on the rights of way maps in the Parish notice boards and in the parish footpath guide when reprinted.
- H) Tree Warden - Cllr Ballard
- No issues to report.
- I) Countryside Conservation - Cllr Ballard, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Nelson, and Cllr Stainton
- No issues to report.

2022/505 PC storage building – shelves
Quotes have been sought for a supply and fit.

2022/506 New Community Projects – residents' survey in newsletter
No update at this point.

2022/507 Items for the next Agenda

- National Grid update.
- Beaumont Oates Barns.
- Resilience plan.
- Website update & Launch.

Next meetings:

Monday	9 th	January	Bi-Monthly Meeting
Monday	13 th	March	Bi-Monthly Meeting and Annual Assembly of the Parish
Thursday	4 th	May	Parish Elections
Monday	8 th	May	Bi-Monthly Meeting
Monday	10 th	July	Bi-Monthly Meeting
Monday	11 th	September	Bi-Monthly Meeting
Monday	13 th	November	Bi-Monthly Meeting

Meeting Closed: 21.35
 Will Adshead-Grant
 Clerk to the Council.